From: Mark Christensen
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/17/02 9:35am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

A developer for Windows and Unix based operating systems, I have a firm
admiration for the Windows API, but I will always have to play second fiddle
to Microsoft, because they have not published the API in detail. On the
other hand the API's underlying a basic Unix operating system are not only
widely know, but there are a dozen or more operating systems which use the
same API, and which can run the same programs (once they are recompiled)
thanks to the POSIX standard.   These operating systems compete based on a
wide variety of features including stability, added functionality, and
price. The same should be true in the desktop OS space which is dominated
by Microsoft, and that is why Microsoft should be required to publish in
full detail the Windows API, and an independent code review should be done
on major applications produced by Microsoft to show that they are not using
any undocumented system calls. Beyond that, opening up the file formats for
Microsoft Office would do a great deal to allow users to take their data
with them, if they do at some point choose to use another operating system
at some time in the future.

Yours
Mark Christensen

Network Administrator
Humantech, Inc
Ann Arbor MI 48108